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(c) Neither the takli nor the charka can be regarded as a very efficient instrument for the spinning of wool. The Department of Industries is therefore considering the question of introducing small size power wool spinning plants which could suitably be worked by a group of spinners. Pending, however, the demonstration and popularisation of such domestic plants, the attention of the department is being directed to the evolution of a suitable hand-driven carding machine, with a view to replacing the present laborious method of bowing and also securing a better quality of sliver for the cottage spinners. In these circumstances, no useful purpose would be served by arranging for a departmental demonstration of the charka.

(d) Government understand that the Siddapuram settlement employs at present only two-fold or twisted yarn for weaving cumblies on the fly-shuttle loom, as single yarns of the quality obtainable at present do not stand the strain of the fly-shuttle slay. The employment of double yarns does not, however, afford the best solution as the use of such yarns would considerably enhance the price of the woven article. Before, therefore, the fly-shuttle can be introduced amongst the cumbly weavers with advantage, it is necessary to secure for them supplies of single yarns of a quality which would permit of fly-shuttle weaving. The Department of Industries is accordingly at present considering the question of introducing small size spinning plants which would yield woollen yarns of a quality suitable for the fly-shuttle loom. After success has been attained in this direction, the necessary measures will be taken with a view to the introduction of the fly-shuttle among the cumbly weavers.

[For further list of starred question, vide page 497 infra.]

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Land Assignment

Grant of darkhast lands to non-combatant ex-military men.

344 *Q.*—Subadar-Major S. A. NANJAPPA Bahadur: With reference to my speech on the 2nd March 1928 (page 257, Volume XL, Proceedings of the Madras Legislative Council), will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have considered the desirability of granting at least five acres of land on darkhast to non-combatant ex-military men who have served overseas during the great war of 1914—18 and are in possession of war medals?

A.—In April 1921 the Government empowered Collectors to authorize the assignments of lands to officers and men who actually served in the Great War, whether as combatants or as non-combatants in preference to other claimants. The concession was limited to three years and to a single grant not exceeding five acres of wet or

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ten acres of dry land. The concession expired in April 1924, but in October 1924 orders were issued continuing the concession to combatants. The concession was not continued to non-combatants because the supply of suitable land was limited and because it was considered that the ex-army clerks had less need of special treatment than the fighting men.

Jails

Alleged dismissal of Mr. Wilkins Michael, European Warder in Salem Central Jail.

345 Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether one Wilkins Michael had been employed in the Jail department since 1919 first as Sergeant in the Senior Certified School, Chingleput, and subsequently as European warder in the Salem Central Jail;

(*b*) whether when he was appointed in 1919 he was duly exempted from the age-limit by the Government;

(*c*) whether his services were dispensed with on 6th June 1928;

(*d*) whether this was done on the score of his being over-aged and if so, why, when he had been exempted in 1919, his services were dispensed with on this ground;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that Wilkins Michael was relieved really to provide a place for one B. Lynsdale, a son of W. M. Lynsdale who has gone on sick leave; and

(*f*) whether this B. Lynsdale is only 17 years of age and has no qualifications whatever?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) He was exempted from the age-limit by the Director of Public Instruction in 1920.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The answer to the first portion of the question is in the negative.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) Mr. B. Lynsdale is 19 years old and has studied up to the III Form. His appointment is purely temporary.

Museums

Qualifications of the acting Superintendent of the Government Museum.

346 Q.—Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Mr. E. Barnes of the Madras Christian College has been acting in the place of the permanent Superintendent of the Government Museum;

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(b) the qualifications of Mr. Barnes for filling this acting vacancy; and

(c) whether the claims of officers in the Museum were considered for this acting vacancy?

A.—(a) Mr. Barnes acted as part-time Superintendent of the Museum when Dr. Gravely was on leave in 1923 and in 1927. He is not now acting.

(b) Mr. Barnes is a B.Sc. of the London University and is deeply interested in Botany, which is a subject dealt with in one of the sections of the Museum. His services were of special value in the preparation of a bulletin on the Flora of Madras and its neighbourhood, and also in starting the work connected with the preservation of bronzes in the Museum by chemical treatment.

(c) Yes.

Industries

Supply of water through power drills at Salem.

347 Q.—Subadar-Major S. A. Nanjappa Bahadur: With reference to the speeches made by me on the 25th March 1927 and 2nd March 1928, will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the Government have made any experiment to supply water to ryots through boring system (power drills) at Salem; if not when they propose to do it?

A.—No experiments have been made in Salem. An experimental survey of underground water supplies is in progress in the Bellary district. The results of this survey will be awaited before further experiments are undertaken.

STARRED QUESTION

General

Separation of the Oriya-speaking tracts from the Madras Presidency.

*348 Q.—Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to lay on the table copies of all statements and figures supplied to the officer deputed by the Government of Bihar and Orissa to the Ganjam district and also to Madras to collect information on the report of the Phillip and Duff Commission regarding the separation of the Oriya-speaking tracts from Madras?

A.—Certain information including statistics regarding revenue and expenditure in Ganjam district was supplied to the Government of Bihar and Orissa at their request in 1926. Subsequently that Government deputed an officer of their Finance Department to examine these statistics. Assuming that it is to these statistics that the question refers, a copy [a] is laid on the table together with a list of the books and papers (published) that were also sent.

[a] Printed as Appendix XII on pages 591–595 infra.